Post/ Subject	Kendriya Vidyalaya							Total
	No. 1 Hindon	No. 2 Hindon	VKV Ghaziabad	Babugarh	Murad-Nagar	Sarsawa	Muzaffar-Nagar	
PGT (Bio.)				1 (01.04.02)				1
TGT (Eng.)		1 (15.03.02)			1 (20.07.01)	1 (01.04.02)		3
TGT (S. St.)		1 (Posted but not joined)						1
HM	1 (Last two years)					1 (01.05.95)		2
TOTAL:	2	2	1	3	3	3	—	14

*Figures in brackets are the dates since when vacancies exist.

SC Directive for mid-day meals in schools

366. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the orders issued by the Supreme Court directing the Central and State Governments to provide cooked mid-day meals in all the schools, from January, 2002, stressing that this implement the Constitution (93rd Amendment) Bill, 2001, and would provide a major boost for below poverty line families to educate their children;

(b) if so, what steps have since been taken by the Central and the State Governments to ensure provision of cooked mid-day meals to school children, indicating the provision of funds for the schemes; and

(c) how far this has given a boost to school enrolments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* their order dated 28.11.2001 have directed

States/UTs to implement the Mid-day Meal Scheme by providing every child in every Government and Government assisted primary schools with a prepared mid-day meal with a minimum content of 300 calories and 8-12 grams of protien each day of school for a minimum of 200 days. Those Governments providing dry rations instead of cooked meals must within three months start providing cooked meals in all Government and Government aided primary schools in all half the districts of the State (in order of poverty) and must within a further period of three months extend the provision of cooked meals to the remaining parts of the State.

(b) Under the programme, Central Government provides food-grains, free of cost through Food Corporation of India and admissible transportation charges. Based on the Central Support, the conversion cost for converting the foodgrains into a meal is to be borne by the concerned State/UT. For meeting the cost of foodgrains and transportation charges, an amount of Rs. 1175 crore has been provided in the budget for 2002-2003 by the Central Government. Cost of conversion etc. it to be met by the concerned State/UT. The Central Government has urged States/UTs which are currently providing dry rations to shift to providing a cooked meal.

As per the available information, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry are providing cooked food. In Madhya Pradesh, meals are being served to children in 89 tribal blocks. In Orissa, meals are provided in 8 KBK districts (Bolangir, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Navrangpur, Nupada, Raigada and Sonepur) and 74 ITDA blocks of non KBK districts. Karnataka is providing meals in Belari, Bidar, Bijapur, Bagalkote, Gulbarga, Kopala and Raichur districts while cooked meals are being provided through an NGO called ISKCON to about 6000 children of Bangalore rural districts. Ready-to-eat food is being distributed in Delhi and Rajasthan.

(c) As per the evaluation undertaken in 1999 in ten States by an independent agency called Operations Research Group, New Delhi, namely, Assam,Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West bengal, while the Mid-day Meal programme has given boost to enrolment in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and has had positive impact on attendance and retention on other six States.

Besides, a study conducted by NCERT in year 2000 on State's policies on incentive schemes in primary schools and their contribution to girls' participation, also covered the Mid-day meal Scheme in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Natdu. the report states that the noon-meal scheme of Tamil Nadu and supply of foodgrains under Mid-day Meal Scheme in Uttar Pradesh have helped improve the enrolment and retention of girls in schools.

Commercialization of education

367. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing trend in commercialization of education; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to contain this trend, in the light of recent amendment to the Constitution, providing education to all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986, as updated in 1992, while encouraging non-governmental and voluntary efforts including social activist groups in the field of education, calls for steps to prevent commercialization of education. Several schemes of the Centre/States encourage the participation of NGOs/VAs to supplement governmental efforts. The State Governments have their own regulatory laws to regulate different aspects of education at various levels including matters like admission, fee structure, recruitment of teachers, management of institutions, transaction of curriculum, setting up of new institutions etc. At the Central level, the statutory bodies *viz.*, University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) ensure proper maintenance of norms and standards in Higher Education, Technical and Management Education and Teacher Education respectively, in the light of directions contained in several judicial pronouncements with regard to fees structure, charging of capitation fee, admission policy etc.